

NATIONAL RIVER INVENTORY (NRI)



FACTS AT A GLANCE

ADMINISTRATOR

U.S. Department of Interior

NO. OF WEST VIRGINIA NRI RIVERS

Fifty-five

WEST VIRGINIA NRI RIVERS PROTECTED BY THE STATE NATURAL STREAMS PRESERVATION ACT OF 1994

Five:

- New River
- Greenbrier River
- Cranberry River
- Anthony Creek
- Birch River

WEST VIRGINIA NRI RIVER PROTECTIONS BY STATE LAW

Impoundment restrictions only

WEST VIRGINIA NRI RIVERS NOT INCLUDED IN THE STATE'S NATURAL STREAM PRESERVATION ACT OF 1994

- Big Sandy Creek
- Blackwater River
- Buckhannon River
- Cacapon River
- Cheat River
- Shavers Fork
- Cherry River
- Elk River
- Gauley River
- Holly River
- Hughes River
- Laurel Fork
- Little Kanawha River
- Middle Fork River
- Mud River
- North River
- Otter Creek
- Potomac River
- Red Creek
- Seneca Creek
- Tygart Valley River
- Williams River

The National River Inventory, or NRI, recognizes rivers, or segments of rivers, based on their Outstanding Remarkable Value(s), or ORVs.

WHAT IS THE NATIONAL RIVER INVENTORY?

According to the National Park Service's website, "The Nationwide Rivers Inventory (NRI) is a listing of more than 3,200 free-flowing river segments in the United States that are believed to possess one or more "outstandingly remarkable" natural or cultural values judged to be at least regionally significant. Hence, NRI river segments are potential candidates for inclusion in the National Wild and Scenic River System."

WHAT DOES THE NRI DO FOR WEST VIRGINIA'S RIVERS?

- The NRI is a source for statewide river assessments and federal agencies involved with stream-related projects.
- The inventory can provide the location of the nearest naturally- functioning system which might serve as a reference for monitoring activities by groups concerned with ecosystem management, such as watershed associations.
- The NRI serves as a listing of plant and animal species that can be used as a reference for restoration efforts on a similar section of river.
- It provides a listing of free-flowing, relatively undisturbed river segments for river enthusiasts and nature lovers.
- It identifies the best of West Virginia's streams and rivers for future inclusion in a State or National Wild and Scenic River System.

Outstanding Remarkable Values, or ORVs, outline the special qualities of a stream or river, qualities that merit protection and preservation of the stream or river. ORV categories include historic, scenic, cultural, recreational, fish, wildlife (flora and fauna), geologic, and other. A river or stream can possess one or more values. West Virginia NRI rivers and streams would be the first to be considered for inclusion in the West Virginia Scenic River System, when passed into law.